

# Mitchell Knew Of ITT Pledge -- Anderson

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Columnist Jack Anderson contended today that John Mitchell, as attorney general, knew early last year of a pledge allegedly made by the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. to the Republican National Convention even though he has denied it.

"Mitchell was running the Republican Party from inside the Justice Department," said Anderson.

"If he says under oath what he said in the statement he issued it will be the most arrogant example of perjury this committee has ever seen."

## Statement

Anderson referred to Mitchell's Feb. 28 statement which the Justice Department issued to deny accusations made by the columnist that the settlement of an antitrust case against ITT was arranged by Mitchell and top ITT officials.

Anderson said that California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke and his aide, Edgar Gillenwaters, have confirmed that they discussed ITT's commitment to the convention with Mitchell last May at the same time the Justice Department was negotiating a settlement of three antitrust suits against ITT.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, hearing the testimony, recessed in mid-afternoon until Tuesday morning, when Mitchell is due to testify, followed by ITT President Harold Geneen.

The hearings sprang from charges by Anderson that Justice Department officials acted wrongly in the ITT settlement.

## Nomination Up

The committee convened the hearings at the request of acting Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst, who asked to answer Anderson's charges about his department. Kleindienst's nomination to be attorney general is now before the Senate.

Anderson's comments, in answer to questions by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.),

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brought on a political skirmish in which Republican Sens. Marlow Cook of Kentucky and Roman Hruska of Nebraska asked that Anderson not be allowed to continue his testifying about Mitchell.

"This committee should not have to listen to this political diatribe," said Hruska. "We should get only the facts."

Cook said, "the former attorney general can speak for himself. We shouldn't have to sink this low."

## Nixon Brought In

In testimony yesterday an investigator for Anderson, Brit Hume, said he was told by an ITT lobbyist that President Nixon was involved in efforts to settle the ITT case.

The lobbyist, Mrs. Dita Beard, was quoted as saying Mitchell told her Nixon wanted him to make a reasonable settlement.

Mitchell replied in a statement: "The President has never, repeat never, made any request to me directly or indirectly concerning the settlement of the ITT case and I took no part in the settlement."

Hume went back to the witness stand today, saying again Mrs. Beard told him she talked with Mitchell at a Kentucky Derby dinner party.

"She said Mitchell at first had been very rough on her but after being very rough, he had actually been very sweet," Hume said.

Hume said Mrs. Beard gave him her version of the dinner party conversation after he had confronted her with a memorandum she wrote linking the settlement with ITT's purported \$400,000 pledge to the GOP convention.

"She was really upset after seeing the memo," he said. "Finally, I began to press her to tell me that there was an agreement."

"Yes," she nodded," he said.

"By you. I said," said Hume.

"Yes," he quoted her as replying.

"With Mitchell?" Hume said he asked.

"Yes," she said, nodding," he said.

"She was broken down now. Her head was in her hands," Hume said.

"She darted into the kitchen. When she came out, she again asked if we were going to ruin her. I said we have to get all the facts before we do anything. She then told me the story about the dinner conversation."